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**APR 10 2009**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of

Akiba, et al.

Application No. 10/501,265

Filed: July 9, 2004

Attorney Docket No. Q73735

**DECISION ON PETITION**

This is a decision on the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181(a), filed March 16, 2009.

The petition is **dismissed**.

This application was held abandoned July 24, 2008, after no reply was received to the non-final Office action mailed April 23, 2008. The notice set forth a shortened statutory period of reply of three months from its mailing date. No response was received within the allowable period and the application became abandoned on July 24, 2008. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed January 16, 2009. The instant petition was filed on March 16, 2009. Petitioner maintains that the notice of April 23, 2008, was never received.

When, as in this case petitioner is arguing that an Office communication was not received, petitioner must establish non-receipt of the Office communication in accordance with section 711.03(c) of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* that requires the following:

To minimize costs and burdens to practitioners and the Office, the Office has modified the showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office action. The showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner describing the system used for recording an Office action received at the correspondence address of record with the USPTO. The statement should establish that the docketing system is sufficiently reliable. It is expected that the record would include, but not be limited to, the application number, attorney docket number, the mail date of the Office action and the due date for the response.

Practitioner must state that the Office action was not received at the correspondence address of record, and that a search of the practitioner's record(s), including any file jacket or the equivalent, and the application contents, indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the record(s) used by the practitioner where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received is required.

A copy of the practitioner's record(s) required to show non-receipt of the Office action should include the master docket for the firm. That is, if a three month period for reply was set in the non-received Office action, a copy of the master docket report showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the non-received Office action must be submitted as documentary proof of non-receipt of the Office action. If no such master docket exists, the practitioner should so state and provide other evidence such as, but not limited to, the following: the application file jacket; incoming mail log; calendar; reminder system; or the individual docket record for the application in question.

Petitioner has not made the required statements, i.e., a statement from the practitioner describing the system used for recording an Office action received at the correspondence address of record with the USPTO and a statement that establishes that the docketing system is sufficiently reliable. The petition is dismissed accordingly. The renewed petition must be accompanied by the required statements as indicated above.

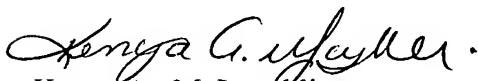
Alternatively, petitioner may revive the application based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required reply, the required petition fee (\$1,620.00 for a large entity and \$810.00 for a verified small entity), and a statement that the **entire** delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300  
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned (571) 272-3222.

  
Kenya A. McLaughlin  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions